

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 200998
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:MLGREENE:MRC
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S- BILL TWADDELL
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
-----041607Z 128524 /45
O 041554Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 100998

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON THE SECRETARY

1. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI, AT HIS REQUEST, MADE INITIAL CALL ON THE SECRETARY MAY 3. AMBASSADOR HAD CALLED PREVIOUS DAY ON UNDER SECRETARY HABIB AT WHICH TIME LATTER URGED ZAHEDI TO DISCUSS WITH SECRETARY THOSE MATTERS WHICH SHAH WOULD PARTICULARLY WANT TO REVIEW DURING SECRETARY'S MAY 13 AUDIENCE.

2. SECRETARY SAID HE WAS SORRY THIS APPOINTMENT WITH ZAHEDI COULD NOT HAVE BEEN HELD EARLIER. HE LOOKED FORWARD TO CONVERSATION WITH SHAH AND TO HEARING LATTER'S VIEWS ON REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES. THEY WILL BE VERY HELPFUL TO SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT AS THEY INITIATE NEW COURSES OF ACTION.

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3. SECRETARY SAID HE HOPED TO TALK WITH SHAH ON MAY 13 ABOUT FIXING DATE FOR A VISIT TO U.S.

4. SECRETARY ALSO TOLD AMBASSADOR WE HAD RECEIVED SHAH'S LETTER OF APRIL 27 STATING APPRECIATION FOR THE DECISION TO SELL FIVE AWACS, BUT ASKING THAT THE TOTAL BE CHANGED

TO NINE. INFORMED ZAHEDI WE WERE STUDYING THAT REQUEST AND WOULD REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. SECRETARY SAID USG HAD RECEIVED RECENT IRAQI INDICATIONS OF INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH US. HE WONDERED IF ZAHEDI HAD ANY SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO RESPOND. AMBASSADOR REVIEWED IMPROVEMENT IN IRAN-IRAQ RELATIONS SINCE 1975 AND SAID IT WAS HIS HOPE IRAQ COULD AT LEAST BECOME NEUTRAL, AS OPPOSED TO ITS PRESENT PRO-SOVIET STANCE. HE SUGGESTED IRAQ MAY FEEL SOMEWHAT ISOLATED AT PRESENT AND IS THUS SEEKING CONTACT WITH US. HE FELT CONFIDENT SHAH WOULD WELCOME IMPROVED US-IRAQI RELATIONS AND URGED SECRETARY TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH SHAH. SECRETARY PROMISED HE WOULD.

6. ZAHEDI SAID SHAH VERY CONCERNED ABOUT PAKISTANI SITUATION. AFTER REVIEWING SOME OF ZAHEDI'S PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN PAKISTANI AFFAIRS OVER RECENT YEARS, AMBASSADOR ADDED HE VERY SURPRISED AT BHUTTO'S RECENT ATTACKS ON US. SECRETARY ASSURED HIM US HAD IN NO WAY BEEN INVOLVED IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THAT ALL OF BHUTTO'S ALLEGATIONS IN THAT CONNECTION WERE UNTRUE. ZAHEDI URGED SECRETARY TO TALK FRANKLY WITH PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO COULD BE TRUSTED.

7. SECRETARY CONCLUDED THOSE WERE ONLY SUBJECTS

HE WISHED TO RAISE, BUT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO HEAR AMBASSADOR'S THOUGHTS ON OTHER MATTERS THAT SECRETARY
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MIGHT RAISE WITH SHAH.

8. ZADEHI THOUGHT AFGHANISTAN WAS MATTER SHAH WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS SINCE HE IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT YOUNG AFGHAN MILITARY OFFICERS WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN SOVIET UNION AND ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER DAOUD. ZAHEDI SUMMARIZED LONG HELMAND WATERS DISPUTE AND IRAN'S HISTORIC CONCERN THAT SOVIETS COULD GAIN DIRECT ACCESS TO GULF OF OMAN THROUGH AFGHANISTAN AND BALUCHISTAN.

9. TURNING TO TURKEY, ZAHEDI EXPLAINED THAT IT IS IRAN'S LIFELINE TO EUROPE. STATED IRAN'S HIGH OPINION OF FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLIYANGIL AND IRAN'S PLANS FOR MAKING LARGE LOANS TO TURKEY.

10. ZAHEDI THEN ADDED AFRICA TO SUBJECTS SHAH WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS. HE LISTED A NUMBER OF EXCHANGES

ON ENERGY AND PETROLEUM BETWEEN IRAN AND USG, CHIEFLY
DURING LATE 1976.

11. AMBASSADOR FELT CERTAIN THAT, IN ADDITION TO
AWACS, SHAH WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS F-16S. HE ALSO
ASKED FOR US SUPPORT FOR IRAN'S CANDIDACY FOR MEMBERSHIP
ON UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. FINALLY, ZAHEDI SAID
HE KNEW SECRETARY WOULD WANT TO TALK WITH SHAH ABOUT
US-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION. (DAY BEFORE UNDER SECRETARY
HABIB HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR US READY TO SCHEDULE COMMISSION
MEETING LATER IN YEAR.)
VANCE

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